

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAF, NATO, CA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO CANADA'S NEW FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PROGRAM

REF: OTTAWA 2438

1. UNVEILING OF CANADA'S NEW FIVE-YEAR DEFENSE PROGRAM
BY DEFMIN RICHARDSON OCT 10 HAS NOT AS YET ELICITED MUCH
COMMENT EITHER IN PARLIAMENT OR IN THE MEDIA.

2. BOTH THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL AND THE MONTREAL
GAZETTE HAVE ASSUMED CRITICAL STANCES BUT LEANING IN
DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS REFLECTING SPLIT NEW IN CANADA
AS TO HOW MUCH AND WHERE DEFENSE MONIES SHOULD BE SPENT.

3. THE GAZETTE (OCT 12) CONDEMNED GOC FOR MAINTAINING
CANADA'S "ABSURD TOKEN CONTRIBUTION TO NATO" WHILE
CUTTING BUDGET OF DOMESTICALLY ORIENTED EMERGENCY MEASURES
ORGANIZATION. GAZETTE ACCUSED GOC OF NEGLECTING CANADA'S
CONTINENTAL DEFENSE NEEDS (PATROL AND SURVEILLANCE)
WHILE BOWING TO WASHINGTON-BRUSSELS VIEWS.

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RM COLUMNIST JOHN GELLNER, WRITING IN TORONTO GLOBE

AND MAIL (OCT 16) ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OF MAKING "TOO MUCH OF A MODEST PROGRAM." GELLNER POINTS OUT THAT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF GNP ARE NOT LIKELY TO INCREASE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND THAT CANADA'S PROJECTED CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS ARE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN ONLY CURRENT LEVELS OF COST EFFECTIVENESS AND CAPABILITY. GELLNER ALSO POINTS OUT THAT MOST OF PLANNED ANNUAL BUDGET INCREASE OF SEVEN PERCENT IS LIKELY TO BE CONSUMED BY INFLATION.

5. ONLY PARLIAMENTARY COMMENTARY TO DATE HAS COME FROM OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE DEFENSE CRITIC, GEORGE HEES, WHO SPOKE TO PRESS OCT 11. HEES WAS CRITICAL OF DEFENSE BUDGET FOR NOT PROVIDING ENOUGH MONEY TO MEET CANADA'S NATO COMMITMENTS AT A TIME WHEN "THE CAPABILITY OF COMMUNIST FORCE IS INCREASING."
SCHMIDT

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